

The gentleman took a multitude of positions unauthorized by heaven, two or three of which I will turn up again for critical inspection. He maintained that—1st, the Spirit came from heaven on those who heard the gospel at Cesarea, before they believed; 2nd, the Holy Spirit fell on their hearts to give them remission of sins; 3rd, the things that transpired then and there go to justify Wesleyans in their converting appliances at protracted meetings.

So taught Mr. Allison. Were these positions duly established, it would not take many more pillars to make the temple that holds Wesleyanism a good solid building, foundation all right, and furniture divinely secure. But we may speedily see if pillars such as these are able to hold together or whether they will fall to pieces when fairly tested.

Great emphasis was put by the preacher on the words of Luke as he informs us that, "the Holy Spirit fell on all them who HEARD THE WORD," Acts 10: 44. To hear and to believe were hence made to appear widely distinct. Cornelius heard the gospel from Peter, and the Spirit descended upon him to give him faith, said Mr. Allison. The gentleman might have saved his time and his reputation by *hearing* the Lord's language to his unerring preachers, "Whosoever HEARETH you, HEARETH me."

A little help from Peter himself will greatly relieve this whole question from theological entanglement: for "there are many unruly and vain talkers, whose mouths must be stopped," provided we are ever again to enjoy "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." The apostle will not hesitate to testify that captain Cornelius and his friends believed precisely as all others believed in those days of unmistified preaching and unmistified faith; for says he, arguing a question in a brotherly debate at Jerusalem, "Men and brethren, you know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel and believe: and God, who knows the hearts, bare them witness, [after they hear the gospel from Peter's mouth and believe] giving them the Holy Spirit, even as he did to us." Acts 15: 7, 8. O Peter! what a bad Wesleyan you make!! How uncharitable to take the whole ground from under Mr. Allison and leave him standing—if he can stand—upon nothing!!! Observe how palpable the contradiction between the preacher who goes from Hillier to Cesarea and the preacher who goes from Joppa to Cesarea.